United Nations E/CN.3/2010/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 December 2009

Original: English

Statistical Commission
Forty-first session
23-26 February 2010
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and past practices, the Statistical Commission, at the commencement of its first meeting of a regular session, shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur (the Bureau).

The Bureau serves for two years, as far as possible. This is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing those members of the Bureau who continue to be representatives to the Commission at the following session. The Bureau is elected based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution; a member of the Bureau is elected from each of the regions represented on the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were proposed by the Commission at its fortieth session (New York, 24-27 February 2009)[1] and were adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2009/237. The Bureau of the Commission has subsequently approved some changes. The proposed draft organization of work and a note on the state of preparation of

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 4* (E/2009/24), chap. I, sect. B, draft decision.

documentation for the session are before the Commission. The Commission may wish to adopt the agenda and organization of work for its forty-first session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.3/2010/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/2010/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session (E/CN.3/2010/CRP.1)

3. Items for discussion and decision

(a) Programme review: national quality assurance frameworks

The report, prepared by Statistics Canada, contains a programme review on quality assurance frameworks. Based on a broad consultation process, the report presents a review of current quality concepts, frameworks and tools, advocates the use by national statistical offices of a national quality assessment framework and describes its basic elements and proposes the development of a generic national quality assurance framework template and accompanying guidelines to help national statistical offices to develop their individual assurance frameworks, thus facilitating the process of harmonization of quality management tools and enabling countries to exchange practical experiences. In addition to advocating a process to formulate a generic template, the report supports the creation of a consensus on it so that the Commission can adopt this measure at its 2011 session. The Commission is invited to express its views on the substance of the report and on the recommendations for future work in this area.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of Statistics Canada on national quality assurance frameworks (E/CN.3/2010/2)

(b) Agricultural statistics

The Statistical Commission will have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair on the progress to develop a global strategy to improve agricultural statistics and future steps to be taken in the implementation of this strategy. The report describes how the Friends of the Chair has involved a wide range of stakeholders in its discussions. The proposed strategy provides a vision for national and international statistical systems to produce the basic statistical information for decision-making on agricultural policy. The key element of this strategy is that countries will develop an agreed minimum set of core agricultural data. In addition, agricultural information will have to be integrated into the national statistical systems in order to meet the expectations of policymakers and other data users that agricultural data can be linked to other social, economic and environmental statistical information. This integration could be achieved through a broad conceptual framework and the adoption of innovative methodological tools to build the national statistical infrastructure. The achievement of these goals will require a renewed commitment by countries to strengthen their food and agricultural statistics and by development partners to assist developing countries in building sound national statistical systems.

The Commission is invited to review and endorse the report of the Friends of the Chair and the proposal for the strategy and to agree on the required arrangements for the development of an implementation plan.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the Wye Group on Statistics on Rural Development and Agriculture Household Income. The report presents an update of the handbook, *Rural Households' Livelihood and Well-being: Statistics on Rural Development and Agriculture Household Income*. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on agricultural statistics (E/CN.3/2010/3)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wye Group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income (E/CN.3/2010/4)

(c) International merchandise trade statistics

The report of the Secretary-General presents the draft revised recommendations for international merchandise trade statistics, details of which are contained in the background document, *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010*. The recommendations were revised in compliance with the request made by the Commission at its thirty-ninth session. The draft recommendations were prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division in consultation with the national statistical offices and international organizations concerned and were endorsed by the United Nations Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics. The Commission may wish to review and adopt the draft recommendations.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international merchandise trade statistics (E/CN.3/2010/5)

(d) Statistics of international trade in services

The report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services presents the draft revised *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services*. The manual was revised in compliance with the decision of the Commission at its thirty-ninth session. The draft manual was prepared by the members of the Task Force in consultation with national statistical offices and central banks and other concerned governmental bodies. The Commission may wish to review and adopt the Manual.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (E/CN.3/2010/6)

(e) International Comparison Programme

The report prepared by the World Bank on behalf of the Executive Board of the International Comparison Programme outlines the status of preparations for the 2011 round. The report also includes a description of the institutional and partnership arrangements for the implementation of the programme at regional level as well as the overall timetable. The Commission may wish to review the progress with respect to the preparations for the 2011 Round and to express its views on the work plan and timetable.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2010/7)

(f) National accounts

The report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts provides an update on the finalization of the *System of National Accounts 2008*, in accordance with the Commission's decision at its fortieth session, and on preparatory arrangements of its submission for publication and translation. The report includes a progress report of the global implementation strategy adopted by the Commission at its fortieth session and provides further information on the developments of the regional implementation plans of the 2008 System of National Accounts. The Commission is requested to express its views and provide guidance on capacity-building efforts in national accounts as outlined in the implementation programme for the 2008 System of National Accounts.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2010/8)

(g) Environment statistics

The Commission will have before it, for discussion, the report of the Secretary-General on the framework for the development of environment statistics. The report proposes a plan for the revision of the *United Nations Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics* (1984) and the complementary *Concepts and Methods of Environment Statistics* (1988 and 1991), and sets out a course of action towards the establishment of a minimum set of core environment statistics that are comparable and relevant. The Commission is invited to comment on the report and endorse the proposed programme of work.

The Commission will also have before it, for information, the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics. The report covers issues related to the revision of the mandate of the group, a summary of progress made in 2008-2009 and plans for 2010-2011. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the framework for environment statistics (E/CN.3/2010/9)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/10)

(h) Environmental accounting

The report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting describes progress made in the revision process of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and includes the mandate, governance and programme of work of the Committee, reports on progress made on the implementation of the System of Environmental Economic Accounts for Water, in particular on the international recommendations for water statistics, and reports on progress made by those groups that work within the mandate of the Committee. The Commission is requested to express its views on the progress of work of the Committee.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2010/11)

(i) World Statistics Day

The report of the Secretary-General contains a proposal to organize a day of observance, the World Statistics Day, to celebrate the many achievements of official statistics around the globe. The report and its recommendation are based on a global consultation process, the outcome of which was an overwhelming endorsement for this initiative. Approximately 70 countries and international agencies voiced their support confirming that the time had come to organize such a special day and celebrate all the achievements of official statistics on a national, regional and global level. The Commission is invited to adopt 20 October 2010 as the first World Statistics Day and to request the United Nations Statistics Division and international agencies to support and promote national, regional or global events in observance of this day.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day (E/CN.3/2010/12)

(j) Global geographic information management

The report prepared by the National Statistical and Geographic Institute of Brazil describes current ongoing initiatives to improve global coordination in the area of geographic information. The report argues for the need of a global spatial data infrastructure and for a better integration of statistical and geographical information. This would strengthen the information's analytical potential and its usefulness for policy decision making. Recent practical experiences in this regard are shared from the activities of the Institute. The report concludes by recommending closer active partnership between national statistical offices and national mapping agencies. The Commission is invited to encourage the Statistics Division to launch a process to facilitate closer data integration between statistical and geographical information.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the National Statistical and Geographic Institute of Brazil on global geographic information management (E/CN.3/2010/13)

(k) Inventory on Global Statistical Standards

The report prepared by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico describes a website developed by the Institute containing an inventory of global statistical standards. The elaboration of this inventory was motivated by a new Mexican statistical law requiring that national methodologies be in concordance with international recommendations and standards. Mexico is offering to share its system with the international community, suggesting that it be fully translated and loaded onto the website of the Statistics Division. In addition, a process is suggested for reviewing, validating and updating the system in the future in close collaboration with the international organizations, which are responsible for maintaining the various global standards in the different subject matter areas.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico on an inventory on global statistical standards (E/CN.3/2010/14)

(l) Development indicators

The report of the Secretary-General describes the work of the Inter-agency Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators in the following areas: enhancing metadata and methodologies on Millennium Development Goals indicators; resolving differences between national and international data sets; improving data development and defining strategies to increase capacity-building efforts; defining strategies to assist countries in improving coordination of data reporting and monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals; and preparing yearly analyses and reports on progress towards achievement of the Goals. The report also presents an assessment of data availability to monitor progress towards the Goals. The Commission is invited to comment on progress made by the Expert Group and its future direction of work.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2010/15)

(m) Regional statistical development in Latin America and the Caribbean

This report by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) describes the main trends in the development of official statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. The document presents a detailed analysis of eight specific areas: population censuses, household surveys, national accounts and economic statistics, gender statistics, vital statistics, education statistics, environmental statistics, and statistics on information and communications technology. The report also describes the institutional organization of national

statistical systems in the region and examines the mechanisms for regional coordination and their links with international agencies and bodies. Lastly, the document describes the main challenges facing official statistics, and the strategies that the Statistical Conference of the Americas proposes to address those challenges. The Commission may wish to comment on the ongoing efforts towards the advancement of statistics development in Latin America and the Caribbean and provide guidance on the proposed regional initiatives to improve cooperation among development partners.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on regional statistical development in Latin America and the Caribbean (E/CN.3/2010/16)

4. Items for information

(a) Population and housing censuses

The report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses contains a description of activities undertaken in response to the recommendations made by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-eighth session in regard to the implementation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses. The activities include the conduct of expert group meetings and training workshops; dissemination of the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2*; and the development of a software package, "CensusInfo", to help countries disseminate census data. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses (E/CN.3/2010/17)

(b) Employment statistics

The report of the International Labour Organization (ILO) outlines the recent major reorganization of the statistical activities decided by its Director-General aiming at assisting countries to produce statistics on decent work. As a consequence of the job crisis in the world the reorganization also specially focuses on compiling more timely information from countries. To achieve this ILO intends to strengthen its technical assistance activities at the national level. The report also outlines recent activities in terms of the development of measures of labour underutilization to complement the unemployment rate by a set of indicators that more fully reflect the realities of the world of work in many countries, activities suggested by the Commission at its thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions. Furthermore, the work on a labour statistics framework, harmonization of wages statistics and the measurement of decent work through new indicators in several pilot countries will be presented. The Commission is requested to take note of this progress report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Labour Organization on its new statistical organization and on labour statistics (E/CN.3/2010/18)

(c) Statistics on drugs and drug use

The report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime provides an overview of the Office's activities and discusses the challenges faced in the collection, analysis, and dissemination of drug and crime statistics at national and international levels. It also presents the concerns raised by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in relation to the quality and availability of crime and drug data. Based on expert consultation the report presents suggestions on how to improve the tools used by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the collection of drug and crime statistics and calls for a more active involvement of national statistical offices, particularly in relation to crime statistics and the implementation of victimization surveys. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had requested that the Statistical Commission be consulted in the implementation on its resolution on data collection. The members of the Statistical Commission are invited to take note of these developments.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on statistics on drugs and drug use and crime statistics (E/CN.3/2010/19)

(d) Washington Group on Disability Statistics

The report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics provides an update of the work of the Washington Group that led to the adoption of a short set of disability questions suitable for use in censuses and sample-based national surveys and a summary of the recent efforts to develop an extended set of disability questions to be used as components of population surveys or as supplements to specialty surveys. The report also summarizes activities related to workshops and training sessions and collaborations with other international organizations. The Commission is requested to take note of the Washington Group's current and future work programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/20)

(e) Culture statistics

The report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics describes the implementation of the 2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics. The purpose of the 2009 Framework is to provide concepts and definitions to guide the collection of comparable statistics, as well as to support the development of indicators and analytical research in the culture sector. It establishes a conceptual model for defining culture for statistical

purposes and is a tool for organizing cultural statistics nationally and internationally. The 2009 Framework represents a methodology for obtaining comparable cultural data to support the production of harmonized data and indicators. It is a classification instrument that includes taxonomies of industries, goods and services from recognized international standard classifications for use in cultural statistics. Developed by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the 2009 Framework replaces the 1986 Framework. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the 2009 UNESCO framework on cultural statistics (E/CN.3/2010/21)

(f) Industrial statistics

The report of the Secretary-General contains information on recent accomplishments and the ongoing work programme on industrial statistics. The report describes the development of the revised *International Recommendations for the Index of Industrial Production*, which provides assistance to countries in producing these indices and will form the basis for future data collection programmes. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on industrial statistics (E/CN.3/2010/22)

(g) Statistics of services

The report of the Voorburg Group on Services Statistics describes the vision, the work plan and the governance put in place by the Bureau in 2004-2005 to develop service statistics and presents the progress that has been achieved in delivering tangible output in the course of the last five years. It also presents the work plan to complete the developmental work already underway. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Voorburg Group on Services Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/23)

(h) Finance statistics

The report of the International Monetary Fund on finance statistics summarizes progress and recent developments in the field of finance statistics and provides an overview of planned activities. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Monetary Fund on finance statistics (E/CN.3/2010/24)

(i) Ottawa Group on Price Indexes

The report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes summarizes recent developments and activities, provides an update on the latest meetings and outlines the plans of the Ottawa Group. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes (E/CN.3/2010/25)

(j) Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics

The report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics provides an update on recent activities and meetings and it outlines the plans of the Delhi Group. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/26)

(k) Integrated economic statistics

The report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics summarizes progress in developing the Guidelines on integrated economic statistics and the timeline of planned activities of the Friends of the Chair Group. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics (E/CN.3/2010/27)

(l) Information and communication technologies statistics

The report prepared by the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technologies for Development highlights capacity-building tools on ICT statistics developed by the Partnership and makes suggestions on how to further enhance the production of ICT statistics globally with a view to measuring progress towards achievement of the goals of the World Summit on the Information Society and the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership for Measuring Information and Communications Technologies for Development (E/CN.3/2010/28)

(m) Statistical capacity-building

The report prepared by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century outlines efforts to promote the use of better statistics as a central part of the enabling environment, particularly through support to countries in the design,

implementation and monitoring of national strategies for the development of statistics, through advocacy and by encouraging donor collaboration in statistical support programmes. The report also includes the results of the meeting of the Partnership's Steering Committee in Dakar in November 2009, including the Dakar Declaration on the Development of Statistics endorsed at that meeting. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (E/CN.3/2010/29)

(n) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities summarizes the main conclusions of the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Committee, held in New York on 23 February 2009 and in Bangkok from 9 to 11 September 2009, including the modalities of data-sharing among international organizations, which were reviewed and approved at its fourteenth session. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee on the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2010/30)

(o) International economic and social classifications

The report of the Secretary-General provides updated information on the work carried out under the auspices of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications. In particular, the report informs on the outcome of the meeting of the Expert Group and its recommendations for future work and organization of work. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/2010/31)

(p) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

This item was placed on the agenda by the Commission at the request of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1999/51 with a view to encouraging a closer relationship between the work of the Commission and the Council. The Commission will have before it, for information, a note by the Secretary-General containing extracts from resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions of the General Assembly, the Council and other functional Commissions that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission. The report also contains a description of the actions taken so far and those suggested to be taken. The Commission is invited to take note of this report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2010/32)

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning current activities, plans and priorities.

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-second session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-second session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation. The Commission will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the session. In addition, in accordance with a request of the Council (see Council resolution 1999/51), the Commission will have before it a draft multi-year programme of work for 2010-2013. The Commission is invited to approve the date, provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-second session, as well as to approve the multi-year programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2010/L.2)

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission 2010-2013 (E/CN.3/2010/33)

7. Report of the Commission on its forty-first session

The Commission may wish to adopt the report on its forty-first session, which will be submitted to the Council.

Documentation

Draft report of the Commission on its forty-first session (E/CN.3/2010/L.__)